

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03643 011554Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----020888 011559Z /53

O 011518Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7116
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3643

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH US UK MZ
SUBJ: RHODESIA: NEXT STEPS

REF: MAPUTO 1440

1. MAPUTO TEL RAISES TWO IMPORTANT POINTS. ON THE
PROCEDURAL ONE OF OFFERS TO MEET MACHEL, IT MIGHT BE WORTH
SETTING DOWN ON THE RECORD
OUR EFFORTS TO SEE MACHEL IN EARLY
NOVEMBER, SINCE MUCH OF IT WAS BY TELEPHONE. JOHNNY CARSON
WAS HANDLING THE MAPUTO END.

2. AT REQUEST PREM CHAND ON OCTOBER 29, I ASKED DAR AND MAPUTO
TO REQUEST MEETINGS FOR HIM WITH RESPECTIVE PRESIDENTS. WE WERE
INFORMED BY MAPUTO THAT MACHEL WAS OUT OF TOWN THAT WEEKEND
BUT COULD SEE CHAND THE FOLLOWING WEEK. A FEW DAYS LATER WE
ASKED FROM DAR WHETHER MACHEL COULD SEE CHAND ON MONDAY,
OCTOBER 31. THE RESPONSE WAS THAT MACHEL WAS OUT OF TOWN FOR
THREE MORE DAYS AND COULD PROBABLY SEE CHAND/CARVER AT THE
END OF THE WEEK. WE FLEW ON TO SALISBURY AND AGAIN REQUESTED
A MEETING WITH MACHEL FOR CHAND AND CARVER EITHER TRAVELING
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FROM SALISBURY ON FRIDAY OR FROM GABORONE ON MONDAY. THIS TIME
WE WERE INFORMED HE WOULD REMAIN OUT OF TOWN UNTIL MID-NOVEMBER.
IN SUM, THERE WERE AT LEAST FOUR SEPARATE OCCASIONS WHEN WE
REQUESTED AND WERE TURNED DOWN ON INTERVIEWS WITH MACHEL.
OF COURSE THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT OWEN'S LETTER OF
NOVEMBER 16 TO MACHEL AGAIN OFFERED TO HAVE CARVER COME TO
MAPUTO TO SEE HIM. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THIS OFFER REMAINS WITHOUT

RESPONSE. THOUGH OUR RECORD OF ATTEMPTING TO CONSULT WITH MACHEL SHOULD BE CLEAR, IT MAY BE THAT HE IS UNAWARE OF THESE VARIOUS ATTEMPTS TO CONSULT WITH HIM.

3. BILL'S POINT ON CONSULTING WITH MACHEL ON ORGANIZATION OF THE FUTURE ZNA IS A DIFFICULT AND IMPORTANT ONE. THE PLAIN FACT IS THAT THERE IS NO WAY OF SATISFYING BOTH SIDES ON THIS ISSUE. NYERERE'S ORIGINAL IDEA AND WHAT MAY STILL BE MACHEL'S THOUGHT IS THAT THE ZNA CONSIST OF LIBERATION FORCES WITH A FEW INDIVIDUALS FROM THE RHODESIAN DEFENSE FORCES INTERSPERSED WITHIN IT. THIS WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO SMITH, MUZOREWA, SITHOLE AND PROBABLY NKOMO. ALL OF THESE WILL REQUIRE A SUBSTANTIAL FORCE OF THE RDF TO REMAIN IN EXISTENCE IN ORDER TO SUPPORT ANY INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE IN WHICH THEY PARTICIPATE OR WHICH THEY CAN ACCEPT. WE HAVE AGREED ON THE FORMULA "BASED ON THE LIBERATION FORCES". IN ATTEMPTING TO DESIGN A VIABLE, MODERN MILITARY FORCE, LORD CARVER SUGGESTS THAT THIS BE TRANSLATED INTO A MAJORITY OF THE REGULAR FORCES FROM THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS STRUCTURED INTO UNITS SIMILAR TO THE RDF. THE RESERVE FORCES (UNARMED BUT PERHAPS UNIFORMED) WOULD BE OVERWHELMINGLY LIBERATION FORCES. THE QUESTION WHICH SEEMS TO ME TO PRESENT ITSELF IS WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO OBTAIN FRONTLINE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS KIND OF STRUCTURE WHICH, I BELIEVE, IS THE MINIMUM WHICH SMITH, MUZOREWA, SITHOLE AND NKOMO WOULD ACCEPT (THOUGH NKOMO WILL NOT ADMIT THIS PUBLICLY). IT IS BETTER TO CONSULT WITH MACHEL (AND NYERERE, WHO MAY NOW

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BE MORE AMENABLE) ABOUT THIS AND RUN THE RISK OF THEIR RAISING SERIOUS OBJECTIONS WHICH WE WOULD HAVE TO IGNORE, OR SIMPLY INCLUDE IT IN THE OVERALL ELABORATION IN MKII ON THE TAKE-IT-OR-LEAVE-IT BASIS? AT LEAST WE HAVE TO BE CLEAR IN OUR OWN MINDS THAT THIS IS AS FAR AS WE CAN GO IF WE ARE TO HAVE ANY HOPE OF STOPPING AN INTERNAL OPTION, OBTAINING SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORT AND RHODESIAN ACCEPTANCE OF OUR PLAN. LOW

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